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made beyond it, that by Wendell in 1829, who broke through in longitude 35° west to a point in approximate latitude 75° , and Ross in 1842, who in longitude 163° west reached a latitude exceeding 77° . These explorers seem to have been specially favored by open seasons, and thus were enabled to break through the ice barrier which other explorers have encountered.

BOOK NOTICES.

Publications of the University of Pennsylvania. Series in Philology, Literature and Archæology, Vol. VI. Researches upon the Antiquity of Man in the Delaware Valley and the Eastern United States. By Henry C. Mercer, Curator of the Museum of American and Pre-historic Archæology at the University of Pennsylvania, 1897. Ginn & Company, Agents for the United States, Canada and England, 9-13 Tremont Place, Boston, U. S. A. Max Niemeyer, Agent for the Continent of Europe, Halle a/S., Germany. (To subscribers, \$2.00.)

The places explored by Mr. Mercer were: an argillite quarry and blade workshop in Bucks County, Pennsylvania; an Indian ossuary on the Choptank River, Maryland; aboriginal shell heaps on York River, Maine; a rock-shelter, known as the Indian House, in Bucks County, Pa.; and Durham Cave, in the same county.

The archæological specimens, known in England as Drift implements and in America as Trenton gravel specimens, *paleoliths*, or *turtle-backs*, are associated with the earliest stage of human development. Discussion has at last established a distinction, in comparison with which other criteria of age are insignificant; the distinction, that is, between those found in place in a geological stratum that proved their age, and those found on the surface.

With regard to the latter Mr. Mercer declares, on the evidence of sites examined in various parts of the United States, that the geologically modern Indian made, or could have made, them all.

The detailed account of the examination of the Argillite Quarry and Blade Workshop on the Delaware fills fifty pages, and reaches the following conclusion:

. . . the remains found were, after all, scanty. All referred to the Indian. No token of an antecedent race was discovered, either on the exposed native rock, upon the hills above, or on the beaches below.

The ossuary on the Choptank River is referred to the end of the

17th century. There were two deposits, one about two feet below the other, and in the lower one many of the bones had been burned. No implement or trinket was found.

The shell heaps on York River were found to be practically identical with those in every part of the Atlantic seaboard from Nova Scotia to Florida. The upper accumulations are supposed to be not more modern than the latter half of the 16th century, while the lower portions may be older by several centuries. The vast antiquity assigned by some writers to the Brazilian and other shell mounds reported to contain fossil molluscs is, according to Mr. Mercer, the result of a misapprehension. He quotes the statement of Prof. Pilsbry, Conchologist of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, that not a single extinct *species* of mollusc has been found in the kitchen middens of Europe or America.

There were evidences of cannibalism in the York River heaps.

The Indian House rock-shelter furnished relics of the familiar Indian, but no trace of a cave man.

In the Durham Cave nothing was found to prove the geological antiquity of man, and, with one exception, the unfossilized bones discovered were those of still existing animals. The exception was a fragment of the jaw and vertebræ of the extinct peccary (*mylohyus pennsylvanicus*). Yellow and fresh-looking, the jaw and vertebræ presented no greater appearance of antiquity than the surrounding remains of recent animals, and all, while still fresh enough for food, had been gnawed by rodents. Mr. Mercer concludes that the animal in question became extinct within a few centuries.

These researches are marked by scientific method and accuracy and entire freedom from bias, and they are set forth in an attractive style.

The illustrations are many and very good, and the work is well printed, though the proof-reader has overlooked two or three errors, such as *quarternary* (p. 52) and *heterstrophæ* (p. 167).

Report on the Navigability of the Eastern Rivers of Peru. By Capt. M. Melitón Carvajal, of the Peruvian Navy. 8vo. Lima, 1896.

This little pamphlet of 12 pages is a translation of an article which originally appeared in the 4th trimestre of Vol. V of the *Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima*, and was prepared at the request of the Consul-General of Sweden and Norway in Peru, acting as the representative of a Norwegian navigation company which was contemplating the establishment of a regular steamboat service on the fluvial system of Eastern Peru. The translation, if made by a